

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-7 have been amended in response to 112 rejections.

Regarding the prior art, Hessemann discloses a belt grinder having a grinding beam 13 comprising a plurality of adjacent pressure pads 7 aligned perpendicularly to the direction of a conveyor feed. Kreipe discloses a sanding machine having sanding heads disposing belts 7 and 8 to sand across a conveyor 20 feed direction and belts 9 and 10 in the conveyor 20 feed direction. The sanding heads can be pivoted at one end 21, 22, and 23 to vary the angle of the belts 9 and 10 up to 20 degrees from parallel the conveyor feed direction and the belts 7 and 8 up to 20 degrees from perpendicular the conveyor feed direction according to a work feed velocity.

Claims 1-4 and 6-7 were also rejected as obvious over Hessemann in view of Kreipe. The Patent Office asserts that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have simply made the sanding head of Hessemann adjustable, since Kreipe discloses an adjustably oriented sanding head at an oblique angle to a conveyor feed direction. This assertion is respectfully traversed.

One of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that combining Hesseman's pressure pads with Kreipe's adjustable sanding heads would move the lengthwise axis of the pads away from parallel to the direction of conveyor feed, resulting in unacceptably poor finish sanding quality of the workpiece. Furthermore, the distance between the pressure pads of the resulting machine would vary according to the belt sanding angle and the distance between the detecting rollers and each pad of the

platen would vary. Further compounding this problem, the variation would change from one pad to another. Neither Hesseman nor Kreipe propose solutions to these problems. Therefore, one of ordinary skill would not have combined Hesseman and Kreipe as the Patent Office has asserted and claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance.

In light of the above, reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1-4, 6 and 7 at an early date is earnestly solicited.

If any fees are due in connection with this paper, the Director is authorized to charge them to deposit account No. 01-0265.

Respectfully submitted,

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